

PATRIOT'S CALL TO DUTY

Save Our State

April 12, 2025

For our readers: Our team analyzes bills through a set of principles. The principle on taxation is to keep taxes equal, broad based, and low. This legislative session has seen a plethora of bills that reduce or exempt from personal income tax or property tax for a select few. Regardless of how sympathetic we might be, when one group receives special tax treatment, the burden is increased to all others not in the favored category. Therefore, the recommendation will be to oppose.

SB 33, Cortese – OPPOSE – Senate Human Services Committee hearing 4/21/2025

Guaranteed Income. This program - Success, Opportunity and Academic Resilience (SOAR) - would award public school pupils who are in grade 12 and are homeless youth a guaranteed income of \$1,000 each month for 4 months beginning May 1, 2026. In addition to the additional responsibility for schools to administer the program, these youth are already eligible for cash assistance through CalWORKs, nutrition assistance under the CalFresh program, and health care services under the Medi-Cal program. Guaranteed income programs, regardless of the parameters, have been tried and have never been successful. Guaranteeing an income teaches dependence, not independence. There are no work requirements associated with this proposal.

AB 1219, Wallis – SUPPORT – Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee hearing 4/21/2025

Personal Income Tax. Reduces personal income tax rates, thereby reducing the maximum California marginal income tax rate from 13.3% to 11.3%. Lowering tax rates has been proven to increase jobs, increase business, and to increase tax revenues.

AB 317, Jackson – OPPOSE – Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee hearing 4/21/2025

Property Tax. Defers property tax on certain housing for first time homebuyers, until the property is sold; also exempts construction of these new homes from environmental regulations. This benefit is also available for illegal aliens. California's high cost of housing should be addressed by modifying or eliminating many of the regulations that have been placed on development, not through creating special categories to receive benefits.

AB 1443, Castillo – OPPOSE – Assembly Revenue & Taxation

Committee hearing 4/21/2025

Personal Property Tax Exemption. No tax on tips - similar to Trump proposal. This bill should wait until the federal bill passes; if the federal bill passes, then the state could come into compliance to avoid confusion in reporting.

SB 227, Grayson – OPPOSE – Senate Local Government Committee

hearing 5/7/2025

Expanding Bureaucracy. This bill would extend the authorization for the existing Contra County Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ) to 2040, expands board to include 7 directors who live or work in the GEZ and who represent environmental or environmental justice organizations or interests, and deletes reporting requirements to the Legislature demonstrating GEZ progress.

SB 534, Padilla – OPPOSE – Senate Local Government Committee

hearing 5/7/2025

Added Bureaucracy. The biggest impediment to economic growth is over regulation. 14 agencies - federal, state, and local - currently have some level of jurisdiction over the Salton Sea. This bill creates another - the Salton Sea Green Empowerment Zone ostensibly to improve economic development. Governance is by an up to 38-member board, an executive committee, ex officio state and federal legislators, an executive director and staff.

AB 405, Addis – OPPOSE – Assembly Natural Resources Committee

hearing 4/26/2025

Added Environmental Regulation. Titled the Fashion Environmental Accountability Act, this bill would vest the state air resources board with jurisdiction over a fashion seller's environmental due diligence pertaining to emissions of greenhouse gases if the business sells \$1B or more and does business in California.

SB 437, Weber Pierson – OPPOSE – Senate Judiciary Hearing on

4/22/2025

Reparations. Appropriates \$6M for California State University in support of the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, with a Special Consideration for African Americans Who are Descendants of Persons Enslaved in the United States (Task Force) created in 2023. CSU would explore options to determine how to validate African American genealogy for reparations programs.

AB 742, Elhawary – OPPOSE – Assembly Judiciary Committee hearing

4/29/2025

Reparations. Once the process to certify descendants of American slaves is established by the Bureau for Descendants of American Slavery, each board shall

prioritize applicants seeking a business license who are descendants of American Slaves. This bill is contingent upon passing Senate Bill 518 that establishes the Bureau of Descendants of American Slavery. The amendment to this bill changed the criteria from applicants who are descended from a person enslaved within the United States to simply American slaves. However, by the new definition, the descendants of slavery from Central America and South America would be added to this privilege as well as all races.

AB 657, Nello & Wallis – SUPPORT – Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee hearing 5/14/2025

Taxation Compliance with Federal Law. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged account designed to help families save for education expenses, such as college tuition, K-12 education, and apprenticeship programs. Contributions grow tax-free, and withdrawals for qualified education expenses are also tax free. At the end of 2022, the federal government passed a bill that will allow children who are beneficiaries of 529 tuition plans to roll over tax-free up to \$35,000 of unused funds in these plans into Roth IRA's and thereby begin saving for their own retirement. This bill brings California into compliance with the new federal law allowing this non-taxable rollover.

SB 351, Cabaldon – SUPPORT – Senate Business, Professions, & Economic Development Committee hearing 4/21/2025

Patient and Doctor Protection. A private equity group or hedge fund involved in any manner with a physician or dental practice doing business in this state, including as an investor in that physician or dental practice or as an investor or owner of the assets of that practice, shall not do either of the following with respect to that practice: 1. Interfere with the professional judgment of physicians or dentists in making health care decisions. diagnostic tests, referral, consultations, responsibility for patient care, treatment, or determine the number of patients a doctor sees or hours the doctor works. 2. Exercise control over medical records, selecting, hiring or firing medical professionals and staff, set up rules for outside contracts, decide coding and billing procedures, approve medical equipment or supplies.

SB 382, Strickland – SUPPORT – Senate Business, Professions, & Economic Development Committee hearing 4/21/2025

Private Property Protection. This bill would prohibit a repossession agency from discussing, conspiring, or agreeing with a 3rd party to set a fee, rate, or cost for personal effects and from accepting a hold harmless agreement or release of indemnification in lieu of removing, inventorying, and storing personal effects.

AB 7, Bryan – OPPOSE – Assembly Higher Education Committee hearing 4/22/2025

Preferential Admissions. This bill would state that the California State University, the University of California, independent institutions of higher education, and

private postsecondary educational institutions may consider providing a preference in admissions to an applicant who is a descendant of slavery, as defined, to the extent it does not conflict with federal law. (For this purpose "descendants of slavery" means a person, based on lineage, is a descendant of a chattel enslaved person of American chattel slavery). The California constitution prohibits discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color ethnicity or natural origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting. The Supreme Court has ruled that any discrimination based on sex, color, ethnicity or natural origin violates the constitution's equal protection clause.

SB 560, Smallwood-Cuevas – OPPOSE – Senate Public Safety Committee hearing 4/22/2025

Welfare Fraud. The bill would delete criminal penalties for welfare fraud when the total amount of aid obtained or retained is above or below \$950 and instead make welfare fraud a crime when aid was obtained or retained in the total amount of \$25,000 or more punishable by specified imprisonment in a county jail, by a fine, or by imprisonment and fine.

AB 681, Elhawary – OPPOSE – Assembly. Call or email your Assemblyman (no Portal letters on this bill at this stage in the process)

Benefits for DACA students. Existing law has established the California DREAM Loan program authorizing a student attending U.C. or Cal State to receive a loan - referred to as the California Dream Loan. This bill limits the loan to \$4,000 within a single year for undergraduate study and \$20,500 for a student enrolled in a graduate program. The bill would increase the aggregate limit under the program for a student enrolled in a graduate program to \$118,500 as a graduate student, while maintaining the \$20,000 aggregate limit under the program for a student enrolled in an undergraduate program, thereby increasing the overall aggregate limit under the program for a student who receives a DREAM loan for both undergraduate and graduate enrollment to \$138,500. This Dream Loan program is for undocumented students who have graduated from a California high school.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

(1) PASS ALONG THE INFORMATION

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recipient does not want to get the newsletter to please let you know rather than using the unsubscribe button. That button will unsubscribe you and not them. It's better to cut and paste the newsletter into your email. We are not concerned with getting credit for the publication; the goal is to get information before voters.

(2) CONTACT LEGISLATORS

Call or email your own Assemblyman or State Senator. <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

An easy way to communicate with a committee is through this Portal. Your comments will go to the committee staff and will be available all members of the committee.

NOTE: Many of the committees have established a deadline of 8 days prior to the hearing for inclusion in the committee analysis. Senate Insurance and Natural Resources have even more stringent deadlines.

Position Letter Portal

(one submission per bill)

Email to register a position of SUPPORT or OPPOSE as an individual with the committee staff and bill author's staff.

1. Go to the Registration Page - <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>
2. Select the No bubble next to "Are you a registered lobbyist?"
3. Complete all of the required fields in the User Details box.
4. Do NOT click the "I am affiliated with an organization" box.
5. Complete all the **required** fields in the Account Details box. (*hint: address is not required, so don't give it*)
6. Complete the Captcha and Click "Register."

This is a one-time registration; do not lose your ID and password – they are almost impossible to retrieve or reset.

Once you are registered, log in to submit your position letter. You will need the bill number and committee, both of which are in the descriptions above. Once you enter a bill number, hit the "search" button, and the committees will pop up.

The bullet points provided with the bill information are for your use to write your support or opposition in your own words.

After your letter has been successfully submitted, a link appears on the right-hand side: "Return to Note Submission Page". Click on that, and you can submit a new bill. Very convenient for submitting many position letters via the portal.